



LYNCHES SCENIC RIVER

A Special Supplement to South Carolina River News

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Winter 1997

Time for Action

by Becky Rideout, Project Manager
Lynches Scenic River Project

After more than two years of hard work, the first stage of the Lynches Scenic River Project is almost complete. At our February 1997 meeting, the Lynches River Advisory Council will put the finishing touches on *The Lynches Scenic River Management Plan*, the document that outlines the community's vision for future management of the river. The next step will be to put the plan into action.

Major issue categories addressed in the plan include water quality; recreation and public access; fish and wildlife management; maintaining the river's scenic values; and community involvement. The council developed a management goal for each issue category, identified specific issues, and developed a course of action for dealing with the issues. The final plan contains 64 recommendations on topics ranging from water pollution to fish stocking to navigation.

The management plan emphasizes the need for a community land ethic—a set of values for wise use of the land and water to safeguard the river and its valuable resources while protecting the interests of private property owners. Aldo Leopold, a wildlife biologist and conservation writer during the 1940s, described the concept of a land ethic:

"A land ethic, of course, cannot prevent the alteration, management, and use of resources, but it does affirm their right to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state. In short, a land ethic changes the role of Homo Sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it."

The Lynches River Advisory Council built the plan around Leopold's stewardship philosophy.

Why did the council take the time and spend the energy to write the plan? The

Lynches Scenic River is an exceptional resource worthy of protection. Notable features include numerous small islands and sloughs, intermittent bluffs, bottomland hardwood wetlands, and artesian springs. Along the 7.5 miles of riverfront protected as part of South Carolina's state parks, trees soar to impressive heights untouched by the woodsman's axe. The river corridor provides excellent habitat for fish such as redbreast and wildlife including otters, white-tailed deer, and wood ducks. Recreation opportunities abound. The river also holds historic significance as a hideout for slaves during the Civil War and as the site of the state's last duel. In short, the Lynches River is a special place.

During March and April, the advisory council will rank the plan's recommendations for implementation. Then, in the early summer, the council will present the plan to the river community. This is a definite turning point in the project. It represents the end of the planning phase and the beginning of the "doing" phase. As council member Kenneth Strickland put it, "The time has come for us to get busy protecting the river. We have a plan. Let's do it!"

To be successful, the management plan must have the full support of the local people.



In many cases, implementation will depend on independent decisions reached and actions taken by landowners, residents of the Lynches watershed, river users, local governments, state agencies, corporations, and/or environmental organizations. The advisory council will work with each of these groups to implement the plan in a voluntary, non-regulatory framework. Hopefully, the implementation process will unite the Lynches River community in an effort to keep the river a viable and valuable natural resource for the enjoyment of present and future generations. ■

Project Calendar

February 6, 6:30 p.m.

Advisory Council Meeting
Schoolhouse Bar-B-Que, Scranton, SC
Review and final approval of management plan. Call 737-0800 for reservations.

March 6, 7:00 p.m.

Advisory Council Meeting
Location- to be announced
Development of implementation strategy

April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Advisory Council Meeting
Location- to be announced
Making final preparations for the Lynches River Festival

May 3, All Day

The Lynches River Festival
Lee State Park

June 1997

American Rivers Month

June 5, 7:00 p.m.

Advisory Council Meeting
Location - to be announced

June 24

Field trip to Little Pee Dee River

July 23

Council canoe trip, US 76 to SC 403
Call 737-0800 for details

Groups Needed to Adopt Boat Landings

by Ellis Farr, Coordinator
SCDNR Adopt-a-Landing Program

Remember that aluminum can you saw on the ground at the US 401 boat landing? It might be there until 2496—unless someone picks it up.

For the past two years, the Lynches River Advisory Council has been working on a plan for the best care of the river and its resources. One of the council's recommendations is to promote stewardship of the river through Adopt-a-Landing, a litter control program housed in the DNR's Water Resources Division.

Now, the council is looking for volunteer groups to "adopt" sites for cleanup. The adoption process is easy: A group chooses a specific landing that it wants to clean and agrees to clean it three times a year. One cleanup is held in June during American Rivers Month. Another cleanup is held in September in conjunction with the worldwide efforts of Beach Sweep/River Sweep. The third cleanup is held in the winter, sometime during the months of January or February.

The SC DNR, in recognition of the group's involvement in the program, will erect a sign bearing the adopting group's name at the landing.

This is a perfect service project for a scout troop, church group, business, civic group, or environmental organization. Join the Adopt-a-Landing team today!

The success of *The Lynches Scenic River Management Plan* and the Adopt-a-Landing program depends on the dedication of caring volunteers. If you or your organization are interested in adopting a landing on the Lynches River, please give me a call. I can also give you information on adopting landings on other waterbodies in the Pee Dee region or other parts of the State. ■

For more information, contact Ellis Farr at (803) 737-0800 or write SC Department of Natural Resources, 1201 Main Street, Suite 1100, Columbia, SC 29201.

Public Access Sites on the Lynches River

US 15 boat landing

Old Field's Bridge landing

US 401 boat landing

US 76 boat landing

SC 403 boat landing

US 52 boat landing

Odell Venter's landing

Citizen Group Keeps Eye on Water Quality

by Rosalind McClam
Lynches River Coalition/Clean Water

The Lynches River Coalition/Clean Water is a "watch dog" group that formed because of the concern of a few citizens about the quality of the water in our river. We believe that the river is declining—it seems that the fish are not as abundant and not as large as in times past. We have observed the decay of the river and tributaries such as Lake Swamp, and we have decided to do something about it.

In particular, the Lynches River Coalition/Clean Water is concerned about point source discharges from industries and municipal wastewater treatment plants. We have discovered that there are numerous discharges including sewage treatment plants, canneries, and chemical manufacturers along the 175 miles of Lynches River. It is our goal to improve the quality of water in the river by working with the dischargers to achieve zero discharge. Instead of trying to limit the amount of pollutants released into our waterways, zero discharge promotes the elimination

of discharges altogether through recycling and reuse of wastewater. The technology already exists, and it is economically feasible in most cases.

We feel that our efforts have brought the condition of the river to the forefront. Most recently, we negotiated an agreement with Lake City that limits the amount of waste discharged to the river. Also, we receive copies of their monthly monitoring reports so we can make sure that they are complying with their discharge permit. We will continue to work with the City and hope to someday achieve zero discharge.

There have been some misconceptions about our group. We are not against anyone—we are for preserving the environment for everyone. We intend to monitor the water of our river for everyone's benefit. The coalition is eagerly watching lawmakers in hopes that they will see the plight of the river. We are going to make sure that our representatives understand how serious the situation has become and how sincere we, their constituents, are

about our health and the health of our children. The well-being of the river is extremely important—whatever affects the river will eventually affect you and me.

Our membership stands at almost 100 and continues to grow. Interested landowners and river enthusiasts are invited to join us in our effort to keep the river clean. ■

For more information about the Lynches River Coalition/Clean Water, call (803)394-3558 or (803)394-2391.

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